



OPEF has been delivering free, hands-on STEAM enrichment programs to Oak Park schools for over 25 years. In 2016-17 OPEF served over 4,200 D97 students.

Architecture Adventure — Architects design, build and explore the human-made world with 3rd-8th graders.

Art Start — Artists animate the curriculum through visual and performing arts residencies with K-2nd graders.

Geared Up — 3rd-grade students engineer simple machines using specialized LEGOs; also used in the 7th grade science curriculum.

Science Alliance — Working scientists conduct experiments and lead field trips with 4th and 5th graders.

VEX Robotics — Tech experts work with teams of middle schoolers to design, build, program and compete with robots.

Spoken Word — Middle schoolers find and cultivate their unique voices by reading, writing and performing poetry.

LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY

OPEF experts worked with 496 Longfellow kids in 2016-17. Enjoy a few highlights from the past year!



1 Measuring the Moon

IIT astrophysicist Dr. Sally Laurent-Muehleisen taught 3rd graders how to build astrolabes, a navigational device ancient mariners used to measure the height of stars (particularly the North Star) above the horizon.

2 Tiny Houses, Big Imagination

Architect Adrienne McMullen worked with Ms. Raia and the 5th grade classes to design and create their dream homes. This year, students also created a real estate advertising campaign for their houses.

3 Pulleys and LEGOS

"Geared Up" third graders discovered how pulleys are used in everyday life. They learned about fixed and movable pulleys and created their own pulley systems to test using LEGO mechanisms.



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An independently run nonprofit with close connections to D97

- All programs are delivered in D97 schools, and D97 teachers help run programs, teach BASE camps, and partner to deliver in-class programs.
- Key staff, school board members, D97 parents and community members are on the board.



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4 Harmonica Harmony

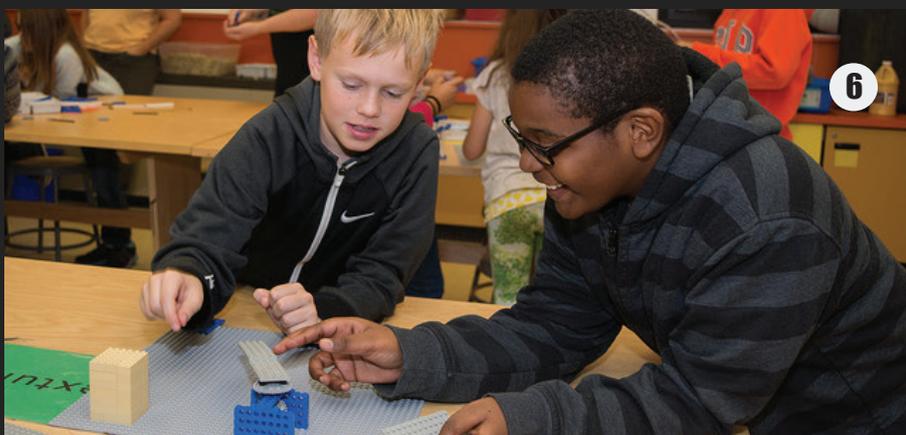
Mr. Podlasek's class learned songs on the harmonica with musician John Milan. The project culminated in a concert performed for Belmont Village residents. Mr. Milan generously gave all students in the class a gift certificate for one free music lesson with him.

5 African Drumming

Mr. Naber's 2nd graders participated in an African drumming unit with professional drummer, Atiba Jali.

6 Building a Community

Mr. Naber's class also worked with Geared Up to create their own Lego communities.



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BASE CAMP

BASE Camp is a fee-based summer enrichment program that helps support OPEF. Almost 900 students enrolled in BASE Camp in 2017. More than 100 students were part of a D97 pilot program known as Summer Launch, designed to reimagine summer school.